

**From:** Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US  
**Sent:** 3/21/2012 10:56:37 AM  
**To:** Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA  
**CC:** Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Subject:** Fw: ATSDR response to recent Dimock Propublica inquiries - fyi to EPA R3 and EPA HQ media

Just found this note from Lora.

--Mick

----- Forwarded by Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US on 03/21/2012 10:56 AM -----

**From:** Lora Werner/R3/USEPA/US  
**To:** kulik.michael@epa.gov, Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Cc:** Karl Markiewicz/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Robert Helverson/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, evj0@cdc.gov, "Burden, Bernadette (CDC/OD/OADC)" <btb8@CDC.GOV>  
**Date:** 03/20/2012 01:57 PM  
**Subject:** ATSDR response to recent Dimock Propublica inquiries - fyi to EPA R3 and EPA HQ media

Hi, Mick and Betsaida

I wanted to share with you the below as an fyi. I believe you all are also getting inquiries from the same reporter.

Thank you, Lora

Lora Siegmann Werner, MPH  
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Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Region 3  
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[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

----- Forwarded by Lora Werner/R3/USEPA/US on 03/20/2012 01:53 PM -----

**From:** "Abrams, Vivi (Beth) (ATSDR/OCOM)" <evj0@cdc.gov>  
**To:** "Burden, Bernadette (CDC/OD/OADC)" <btb8@cdc.gov>  
**Cc:** "Telfer, Jana L. (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)" <jqt1@cdc.gov>, "Werner, Lora S. (ATSDR/DCHI/R3O)" <lkw9@cdc.gov>, "Reynolds, Barbara S. (CDC/OD/OADC)" <bsr0@cdc.gov>, "Grant, Llewelyn (CDC/OD/OADC)" <lcg7@cdc.gov>, "Feldstein, Federico (ATSDR/OCOM)" <vgh1@cdc.gov>  
**Date:** 03/20/2012 01:41 PM  
**Subject:** Urgent media clearance request: Propublica

Bernadette, Lora, let me know if you'd like me to reach out to EPA media region 3 or if that is already done.

Outlet: Propublica  
Reporter: Abrahm Lustgarten  
Email: Abrahm.Lustgarten@propublica.org  
Phone: 917-589-1262

Background: Abrahm Lustgarten has extensively covered fracking for the past several years. He has been critical of government being slow to move on potential public health issues. ATSDR has been working very closely with EPA region 3 on this site in Dimock, PA. The latest information is that ATSDR is still getting EPA's 2012 sampling data in and evaluating the public health implications. We just have an internal incomplete regional draft document at this point on a partial data set. Our 12/2011 AROA is our only formal statement to date on the pre EPA data for the site. As with all active sites like this with data coming in in fits and starts, we do preliminarily screen to see if there any acute, urgent

health concerns. We have not seen that with the Dimock data we have from EPA so far.

Question from Abraham:

**The story is looking at the EPA's research process in Dimock, PA – so having to do with the gas drilling story again. As you probably know the EPA released a statement late last week with partial water test results and very little detail. But I have learned some more about what was detected in the water samples, and I'm checking whether there should be any cause for concern, but also, and moreso, about the research process itself. I'd like to know whether it is in fact appropriate to announce that there is little health concern for residents based on early or preliminary data. I'd like to know whether from a health official standpoint there is cause for concern in some of the constituents detected, whether they are in small amounts or not?**

**(next email)**

**As it gets later, I'm guessing I may not be able to chat with someone about these issues? Can I ask at least for a written response tonight as to whether it can be acceptable to consume any of the following in drinking water even at very low levels:**

- **Hexachlorobenzene**
- **Benzo (a) pyrene**
- **Fluorine**
- **Fluoranthene**
- **Dinitrotoluene**

**What does it mean if these substances are detected in drinking water samples.**

**And how about heavy metals? Chromium, Vanadium, Lithium, etc? Lithium at levels up to 236 ug/L**

Answer from ATSDR, to be emailed:

People should consider state and federal criteria for potable water when deciding whether or not to drink water. Drinking water often contains certain chemicals. It is when levels rise above those deemed to be acceptable that concern arises. ATSDR is reviewing the available sampling data from EPA and preparing a health consultation report to evaluate the overall public health implications of the chemicals detected in the residential wells in Dimock. In the interim, ATSDR is working with EPA Region 3 to provide individual personal consultations with residents about their individual drinking water sampling results.